Jayaprabha Hospital and Research Centre at Kankarbagh, Patna

1143. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the taking over of Jayaprabha Hospital and Research Centre at Kankarbagh, Patna is under active consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details of progress made in this regard; and

(c) whether any time schedule has been framed to complete the takeover?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) A proposal of State of Bihar for setting up of a super speciality hospital for Nephrology and Cardiology at Patna is under consideration of this Ministry.

Pesticides in bottled water

1144. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a study report by a reputed NGO has found unacceptable levels of pesticides in bottled water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the report;

(d) if so, the result arising thereof and the response thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) According to the report, CSE have analysed 17 brands of Bottled Drinking Water for Pesticide Residues. The result obtained in the studies showed the presence of the Pesticide Residues in the samples analysed.

According to these studies, the pesticide residues were coming in bottled water because of the following reasons:—

(1) Pesticide Residues were detected in raw samples (underground samples) which is the source of water for various manufacturers.

(2) Treatment technology given to the raw water is not sufficient for removal of pesticides.

(3) The entire portion of water is not subjected to reverse osmosis; a portion of water is subjected to osmosis and mixed with pre-treated water to maintain the mineral content prescribed under the rules.

The standards prescribed by BIS for Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water were adopted under PFA Rules, 1955 in the year 2000. The PFA Rules provide Compulsory BIS Certification of Package Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water, According to these standards, Pesticide Residues should be "below detectable limits" when tested in accordance with the specific methods as prescribed by BIS in their inspection and testing scheme. The samples of packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water analysed as per BIS method were found to comply with the requirements. However, in the study by CSE, Pesticide Residue were found in water because of use of more sensitive testing methodology, that is a testing method more sensitive than the method prescribed by BIS.

Since Packaged Drinking Water is under Compulsory Certification Scheme of BIS, there is a necessary to harmonise the standards prescribed under PFA Rules with the standards amended by BIS.

Based on the recommendations of BIS, a draft notification for inviting comments from Public to amend the standards of Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water under PFA Rules, 1955, has been issued vide GSR No. 111(E) dated 18.2.2003.

Following amendments have been proposed through this notification:—

(i)	Pesticide residues considered individually (The analysis shall be conducted by using Internationally established test methods meeting the residue limits specified herein above)	0.0001 mg/litre

(ii) Total pesticide residues 0.0005 mg/litre
(The analysis shall be conducted by using Internationally established test methods meeting the residue limits specified herein above)";

(iii) The manufacturers of Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water shall produce a No Objection Certificate from Central Govt./State Govt. Ground Water Authority for obtaining licence from BIS and PFA Authorities.

Upgradation of Medical Colleges in H.P.

1145. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to upgrade Government Medical Colleges in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of Government Medical Colleges proposed to be upgraded in the State;

(c) whether Government propose to open more Medical Allopathic/ Ayurvedic Colleges in the State; and

(d) if so, the amount proposed to be spent for improving health infrastructure in such colleges in the State?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) A proposal was received from Government of Himachal Pradesh seeking financial assistance for strengthening of diagnostic facilities in Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla. The proposal was examined in the Ministry of Health and it has been decided in principle to provide Rs. 150.00 lakhs to Government of Himachal Pradesh under the scheme of providing financial assistance to the States/Union Territories for strengthening of diagnostic facilities in Government Medical Colleges. The funds will be released in due course subject to availability. Further, the Central Government have also provided grant in aid to Himachal Pradesh Government Institute of P.G. Education and Research in Ayurveda, Paprola for upgrading three Under Graduate Departments namely (1) Kayachikitisa (2) Shalya Tantra and (3) Shalakya Tantra, for P.G. Teaching under the scheme of upgradation of U.G. Departments for P.G. Research and Training Departments.